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BEAUTIFUL COLUMBIA GARDENS

"SENATOR CLARKS MASTERPIECE"

Smithsonian Institution
NOV 26

BEAUTIFUL COLUMBIA GARDENS

THE FAR-FAMED
PLEASURE RESORT
OF BUTTE

Smithsonian Institution
NOV 26
National Mu

Illustrating & describing a few *of* the multitude *of* delightful attractions for young & old--their beauty, splendid arrangement and costly proportions--staged amidst a vast horticultural display, which makes the Gardens a veritable dream of loveliness.

Published by
Butte Electric Railway Co.
Butte, Montana

SENATOR
WILLIAM A. CLARK

FOUNDER OF
COLUMBIA GARDENS

East Side of Pavilion Showing Portion of Arcade

MEN may make fortunes—men may win fame; they may paint pictures or write books, but the man who has made a playground for the people has provided for them and for himself a perpetual source of happiness.

Twenty years ago the COLUMBIA GARDENS was a small patch of wild wood and bramble, with a few tumbledown buildings and a dance-hall.

Rapid Evolution

The evolution of the Gardens has been rapid. When Senator W. A. Clark became personally interested in it, no expense was too great, and no change too hasty, to bring it up to what it is today—a model recreation

View on Entering Gardens—Grand Stand at Right

View of Gardens from the West

park for the men, women and children of Butte and community.

The sylvan glade has caught the fugitive sunbeams—blended them with the freshness of mountain air; it has decked itself in silver rivulets and grown gaudy with a plethora of bloom.

The Hidden Wonders

Visitors to Butte, who look at the grim-faced city, set against the blinding sunlight, never expect that, tucked away in the breast of a mountain, is the fairy land where birds sing and where music enlivens the splendid indolence of a sunlit afternoon—where trees whisper as they did back in the childhood home, and where there are no noises but the laughter of children or the tapping of dancing feet.

Looking West Towards Butte

Interior of Spacious Dancing Pavilion

Children's Days

Perhaps no days in the year are as important to the Gardens management and are watched with so keen an interest by Senator Clark himself, as are the Children's days each week, when little ones by the thousands ride free to the big playground. Careful employees watch tiny feet and, above all, there is a desire to protect the lives of the precious cargoes.

It is not unusual for Senator Clark, when he is in Butte on a Children's day, to cancel appointments, postpone directors' meetings, and board one of his own street cars, loaded with tots, accompany them to the fairy forest and spend the day as host to thousands of children who look forward to the happy days once a week.

Looking East from Pavilion—Band Stand in Distance

Three Generations—Senator W. A. Clark, His Son W. A. Clark, Jr., and Grandson W. A. Clark III

Not a Money Maker

The Gardens are not, and never have been, a source of revenue to the management. The receipts are only a small percentage of the heavy expense in the upkeep. In fact, the maintenance of this, the greatest of children's playgrounds in the world, involves an expense of not less than fifty thousand dollars per annum.

The place is kept up-to-date, with the newest and most approved contrivances for amusement manufactured anywhere. Roller-coasters, merry-go-round, and a score of entertaining devices keep amused those who would find other enjoyment than dozing away an afternoon in the shade of a quaking aspen.

View of the Herbarium and Fish Hatcheries

Left to Right—Senator W. A. Clark, Governor S. V. Stewart, Judge Poindexter

The Wonderful Menagerie

Each year the Menagerie, that wonderland for children, is maintained and kept alive with new stocks of native animals. The management, humanely, does not believe in keeping animals which will suffer in the rigors of winter. The Menagerie has no consumptive monkeys nor homesick dik-diks.

Many Free Attractions

The Green Houses and Fish Hatcheries, like the Menagerie—all free to the public—are centers of great interest.

There is probably no park in the United States better managed, and where one can find more pleasure for no expense except his own time, than is to be found at the Columbia Gardens.

Senator Clark and His Little Guests in Pansy Beds

Playgrounds Looking North

The Charm and Beauty of The Gardens

Columbia Gardens are so close to Butte that no one need remain away on account of distance. At the very doors of the city and free of access, the management caters to the respectability of Butte and the visiting public.

"Who can wonder at the praises which have been lavished on the Gardens?" one is impelled to remark after passing out of the Gardens through the broad entrance to the street car which conveys him back to Butte, where he heard the praises of which he has spoken. The contrast between the city and the Gardens is striking, because there is in it the element of two extremes: In one are the constant hum, heat, dust and unceasing activity of the greatest mining

Playgrounds Looking from Pavilion Towards Butte

A Happy Game

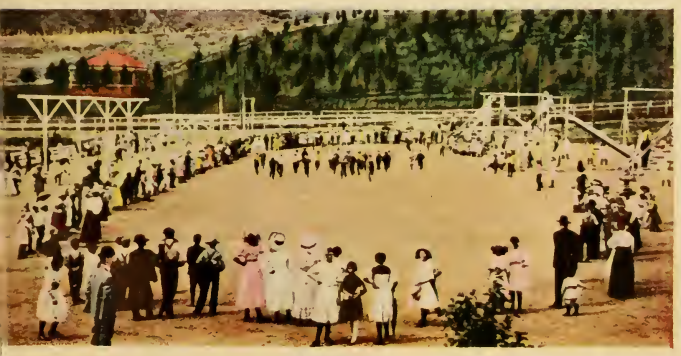
center of the world; in the other, pure air, green grass, peace and the unflecked, placid, serene realm of genuine rest.

A perfect wave of perfume greets one as he enters the Gardens after the exhilarating ride from the city like that which meets him as he enters a conservatory.

Up in the lounging or picnic part of the Gardens is a forest of trees which is threaded with winding paths, in places sheltered from the sun by verdant foliage, and lined with grasses and vines. Here and there are rustic benches and seats, arranged in accordance with the fancy of those occupying them.

Wonderful Achievement of Landscape Gardens

Emerging from the intricacies of cottonwoods, quaking asps, birch, ash and kindred

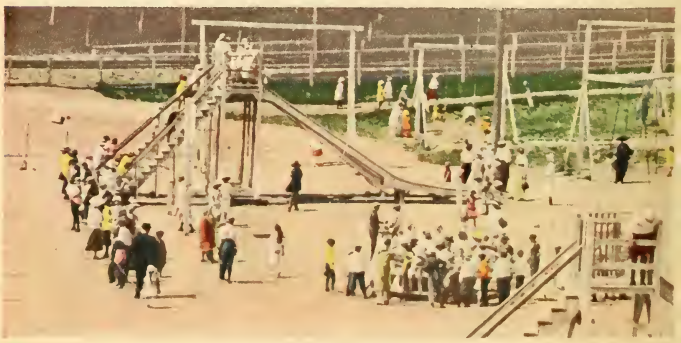


A Foot Race

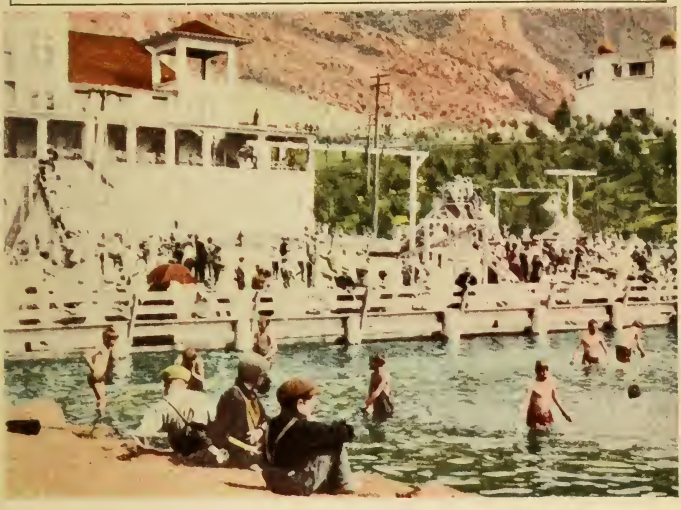
Awaiting Their Turn

trees, one's view is met by a series of beds of luxuriant flowers, caressed by the clinging fingers of vines. Particularly noticeable is the artistic way in which the gardener has fashioned the vari-colored beds. Precision of detail and a fine sense of the really artistic, speak forth from the cheerful faces of the millions of pansies. These are a most remarkable feature of the Gardens, where millions of plants vie with each other for supremacy in the eyes of those beholding their beauty. Any florist could well envy the beautiful pansy beds, as they are unequalled in size and color any place.

The whole Garden landscape seems as if Nature had spread a huge green rug upon the surface and flecked it with floral dots.



Shooting the Chutes



A Cool Retreat

The Great Picnic Grove

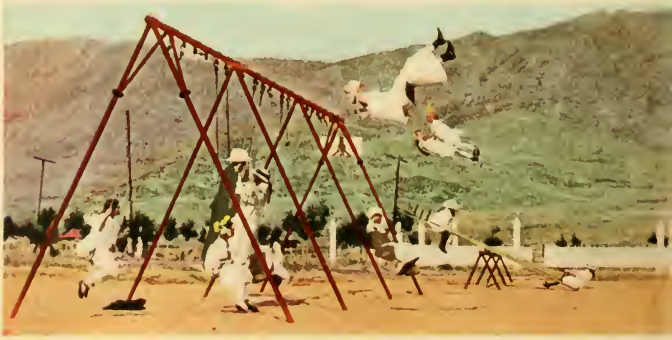
There is one spot in the Gardens which the families of Butte and community claim as their own, and the management accords them all the privileges of the place, and that is the great big picnic grove. Here, on summer days and evenings, is the lounging place for many families, and the children take on good health and flesh, while the parents breathe the fresh air and feel young again. It is the most delightful of all the attractions, and it is merely Nature in the rough; but it is Nature, and that is what the dust-begrimed people of the city are seeking every pleasant day in the year. It is Butte's outing place, and without it the Gardens would be merely a beautiful spot, made so by artificial means and improvements.

Come On In, the Water's Fine

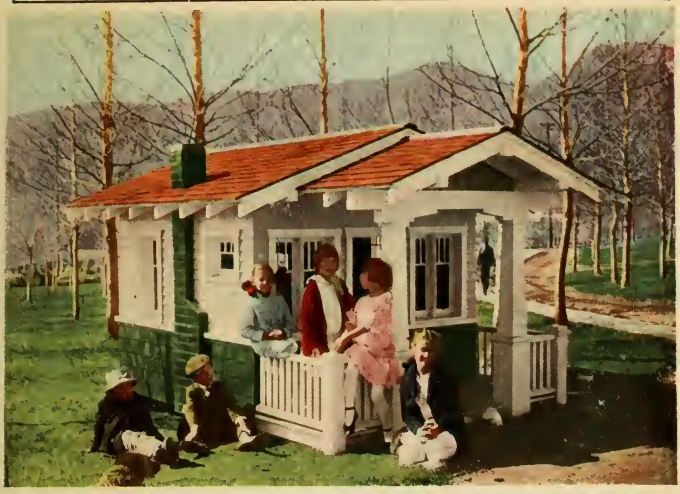
Hand Swings

It is the custom of the families to go out there with their hampers and enjoy their dinners on the grass. Rustic seats are everywhere, and water gurgles through sanitary spouts placed here and there for the convenience of the visitors. Streams of clear water course down the grass-fringed waterways and sing a sweet melody under the spreading branches of the trees and underbrush. To sit for an hour in the grove is better than a draught of the most approved drug tonic on the market.

The surroundings are calculated to drive away the cares of men, women and children. Testimony of men in Butte is to the effect that to spend frequent afternoons in the groves of the Gardens is to enhance one's



High Swinging



A Doll House Party

desire to live and to forget the rush of business life.

Courteous, Capable Employees

The people of Butte take pride in the Gardens, and feel that the management of the resort and the street car line is a part of their own business, in that everything that pertains to the Gardens goes to make up a portion of their daily routine of pleasure. A more courteous and capable set of men than those who run the cars to the Gardens cannot be found in the United States. They are careful, polite, considerate, and they all take a deep interest in their work. This state of affairs is due to the considerate management of those superior in office.

Just Lots of Fun

A Few Lilies

Considerate Management

The public is benefited by the cordial relations existing between the street railway company's employees and management. Mr. J. R. Wharton, manager since 1899, is on most friendly and amicable terms with all of his employees. He considers their welfare as he considers the welfare of his guests, and for this he is paid by his employees in the best possible service.

Annual Arbor Day Ceremony

One of the prettiest scenes ever laid at the Gardens is witnessed Arbor Day of every year, when all the school children of the county assemble in the groves to observe the simple, yet very impressive ceremony of planting the trees. Appropriate exercises

First Aid Contest

Foot Ball

are held in connection; but the mass of children, gay amid the beautiful surroundings, eager to see every move and to hear every word, is an inspiring sight.

Arbor Day is one of the greatest Children's days at the Gardens, and as many as twelve thousand children have been in attendance in a single day. It is the day when Senator Clark, the founder of the Gardens, extends to all of the children of Silver Bow County an invitation to go to the Gardens as his guests. He pays the way, even to the extent of special chartered cars on the steam roads, bringing the children from considerable distance, who would not be able to come to Butte otherwise. The children are given full rein and are free to enjoy the limit of attractions, from the see-saw to

Base Ball

Arrival at the Gardens

a ride on the chutes. There is no restraint —it is their day, and they enjoy it, indeed. The children of Butte and vicinity, and all the visiting children, have an interest in the Gardens. It is, in part, their own.

The Playgrounds

As one enters the Gardens, he hears the merry laughter of children from the playgrounds and, following the sounds of joy, beckoning him, as it were, he is amazed to see beyond the great pavilion the spacious playground where thousands of children are being entertained. Swinging, see-saws, shooting the chutes, wading and swimming are to be found among the numerous sources of pleasure, for the children as well as those of more mature years.

All Aboard for the Gardens

Council of War

Where so many thousands of children are entertained at one time it has been found helpful to their pleasure to employ trained men and women playground experts to organize different games and sports for the girls and boys, and teach them folk dances and other innocent and pretty forms of amusement. No restraint is imposed upon the children to get them to take part in systematized play, but those who like to join in with their little companions in such organized pastimes do so of their own free will, and the grownup instructors make themselves one with their pupils and are dearly loved by them.

This pretty feature is a fitting introduction to the visitors who make their first visit

Let 'Em Come

Senator Clark Talking to Children

into the shady grove beyond. Passing on, the paths diverge, one leading across to the hillside flower-beds, and the other over a rustic bridge to a large enclosure where is found many of the wild animals, such as the buffalo, elk, goats, etc.

The Great Dance Pavilion

The great dance pavilion is where the gay revel in the delights of youth. The measures of the dance are here charmingly stepped to the tune of the best orchestral music obtainable. The floor space is 130 feet by 180 feet, the floor being of the finest grained hardwood. There is spring to the floor, which is an added charm. The spacious balcony affords excellent view of the dancers, and on the east end is a refreshment hall, where ice

An Attentive Audience

Governor Stewart Talking to Children

cream, sodas and numerous soft drinks are served. The orchestra platform is on the west side of the hall, raised to the desired elevation. There are three large entrances. The hall is on the ground floor of the grand pavilion, and is occasionally chartered by social parties, but every night in the summer it is open to the respectable public.

The best of order prevails, and those who are inclined to disregard the ethics of respectability are soon made conscious of the fact that their presence is not desirable.

Excellent Service in Cafe and Booths

In the arcade are found booths and cafe, including soda water fountains where soft drinks are served, ice cream parlors, cigars and confections, and the several other

A Story Just for Girls

Sectional View of Panora

Sectional View of Pan

Picking Pansies

oking West Toward Butte

Looking West to North

Among the Flowers

❖ COLUMBIA GARDENS ❖

Sectional View of Panorama Looking West Toward Butte

Sectional View of Panorama Looking West to North

Picking Pansies

Among the Flowers

Ferris Wheel and Merry-Go-Round

booths scattered here and there at convenient places in the Gardens among the trees and on the banks of the crystal streams add to the comfort of the guests.

No intoxicating liquors are sold in the Gardens or anywhere near it, and its indulgence on the grounds is strictly prohibited.

The splendid equipment generally, the strikingly efficient way the several departments are conducted, their neat and tidy appearance, the cheerful courtesy one receives, the harmony prevailing everywhere, and the general good-will predominating, confirm the excellence of the management.

The Cherished Goal of the Mountain Climber

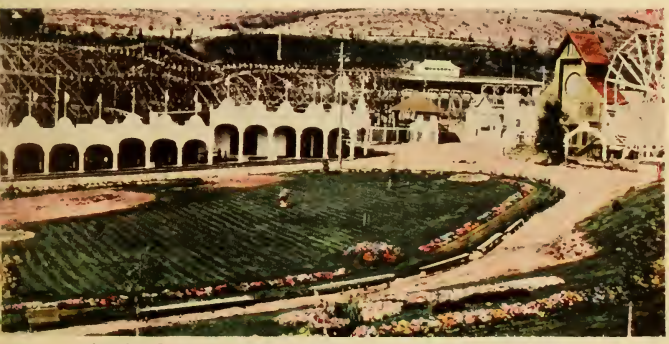
Leaving the Gardens with the multiplied attractions, and forgetting all else save the

Velvet Toboggan

Ferris Wheel—Ocean Wave—Merry-Go-Round

opportunity to continue the journey after stepping off the car, one is led by inclination to climb the mountain's magnificent heights. "Mountain-climbing" parties make the journey to the summit of the Continental Divide of the Rockies, a distance of only one mile from the Gardens.

One has but to look back to see the sights which repay him for the trip. Magnificent views open out to the West, South and North. Away across the valley are the white-crowned domes of the Highlands, whose gorges are filled with snow, glittering beneath the eye of the burning sun like powdered crystal. To the west are the ridges of blue mountains that dim into the perspective to a minute, yet clearly traceable,



Another View of Velvet Toboggan, Ferris Wheel and Arcade

In the Conservatory

outline of white. To the northwest lies Butte, with all of its mines and works and spires seen distinctly through the clear crystalline atmosphere of the high altitude. It is a picture long to be remembered.

Along the route are miniature dells, or benches, moss-covered and shaded by shrubs and overhanging rocks. Near the top is a series of cold springs, and here the weary, but delighted, traveler stops to drink the pure water that comes from the subterranean reservoir, which must lie hidden beneath those mammoth mounds which form the rugged comb of the mountains.

Wonderful Bird's Eye View of Butte

One never tires of those things seen from the altitudinous heights. The field-glass

Pick All You Want

One of the Greenhouses

brings the streets of Butte at one's feet, and the cars and wagons and the people moving hither and thither give to the eager eye a confusion of bewildering subjects to discuss. To climb the mountain back of the Gardens is a delightful excursion and one that is enjoyed every day in the summer. Indeed, excursions have been made to the summit in winter, and then the scenes laid out before the eye are more beautiful in their cold and forbidding presence. It is all so beautiful—sometimes awfully beautiful.

Immense Floral Display

With all of the other attractions, their beauty, splendid arrangement and costly proportions, the overshadowing feature, so regarded by the great majority, is the im-

A Flower Among the Pansies

In the Greenhouse with Chief Gardener and Mike the Parrot

mense floral display. Columbia Gardens, as a pleasure resort, is famed from sea to sea, and from Labrador to the Rio Grande, and in foreign countries, as the home of the prettiest collection of flowers in the Northwest. This feature is, indeed, a revelation, especially is it a revelation to the thousands of people who know little about Butte. The hot-houses at the Gardens are just a few notches ahead of anything of the kind in the West. Far-famed is the beautiful collection of begonias, which experts declare to be unsurpassed in brilliant and varied coloring that is positively dazzling to the eye. The original stock of these wondrously tinted flowers was obtained years ago in Holland. Most of the species of this botanical order were originally discovered in their wild state

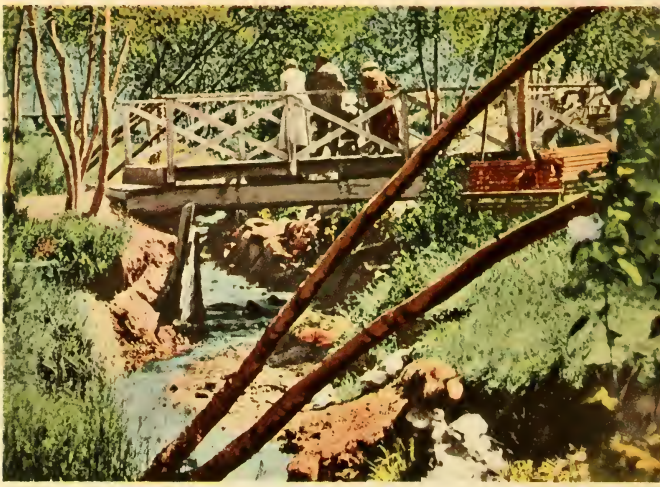
A Beautiful Flower Plot

Apple Tree Bearing Fruit—Latitude, 46.2°; Longitude, 112.46°; Elevation, 6,000 Feet

growing at high altitudes and, as the elevation at the Gardens is nearly 6,000 feet above sea level, these plants are well suited there. This, with the long days and almost perpetual sunshine of the Montana summer, has brought these handsome flowers to their greatest perfection.

Visitors have marveled at the tropical buds to be seen on all sides. But the culture of the tender plants has demonstrated the possibility of floriculture in the mountain resort near Butte—and now—instead of blindly rushing into the thought that Butte is famed only for its mineral production, the visitor goes into the argument with the same spirit that characterizes the argument of the citizen of Butte who holds to the belief that

Apple Tree in Bloom



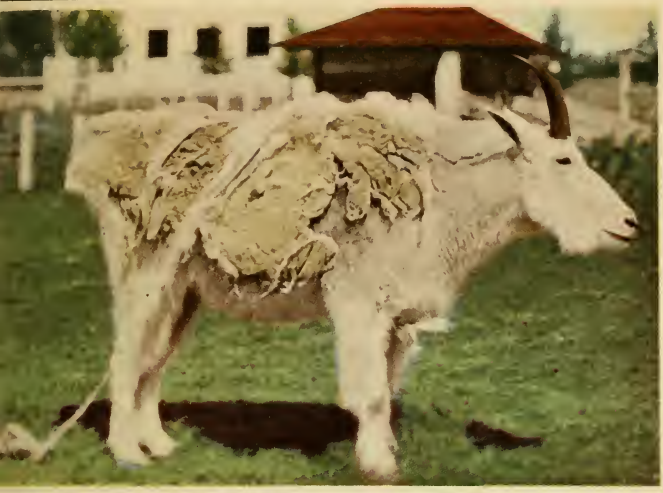
A Rustic Bridge

there still remains the possibility of advanced floriculture right in the city.

One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Growing Plants

While to behold them in their splendor is to inspire the thought that the flower-beds are at the zenith of their importance and glory, still it must be admitted that the display is merely an evidence of the value of experiment. The gardeners from year to year have sought to improve the display, and from a small beginning, with but a few pansies and some of the hardier plants, the strides have been phenomenal, until today there are in the Gardens and hot-houses more than one hundred and fifty thousand growing plants of nearly two hundred varie-

A Picnic Grove

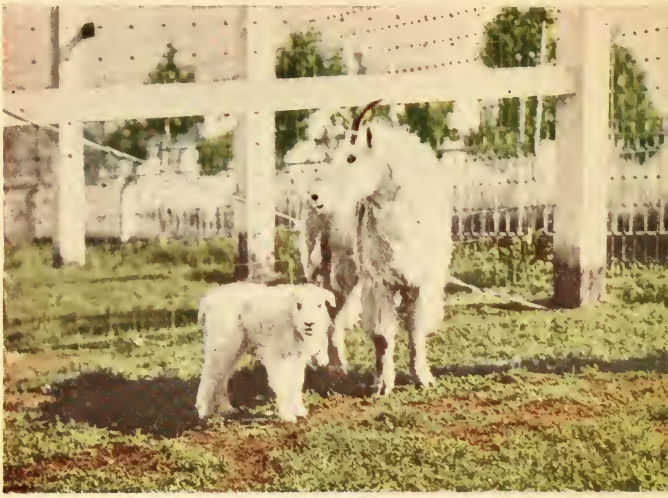


Shedding His Coat

ties, including most delicate products of the tropics, housed in the large glass nurseries.

The hot-houses are on the list of attractions most enjoyed by the visitors, for here are shown a variety of plants of the rarest character. In the hot-houses are seeded the thousands of pansies that ultimately adorn the flower plots throughout the Gardens. The climate is congenial to the pansy, which, at the Gardens, grows to enormous size, some measuring as large as three inches in diameter. Twenty-five thousand pansy plants are transplanted every season, which yield millions of vari-colored blooms. One of the most charming sights to be seen at this beauty spot is found on Children's and other days when visitors are admitted to pick at will, pansies in a fenced

After the Bottle

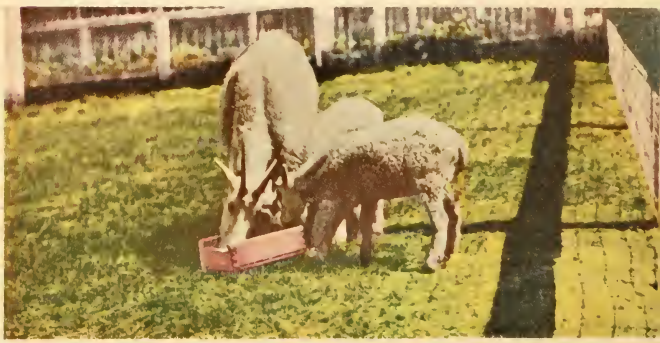


Rocky Mountain Goat with Young

acre plot. So much in demand are these gaily colored flowers that the gatherers have to be admitted in squads of about a hundred for only a few minutes at a time, when they are replaced by other posy lovers and so on at intervals until the supply is exhausted for the day. After the floral harvest has been garnered, one of the pretty scenes is found in watching the children and grownups sitting on rustic benches, or reclining on the grassy lawns, arranging their treasure trove into bouquets, pansy chains to adorn little necks, and other pleasing floral designs.

The Great "Zoo"

The "Zoo" is one of the attractions which the visitors find a source of a great deal of pleasure, for here are seen a variety of ani-

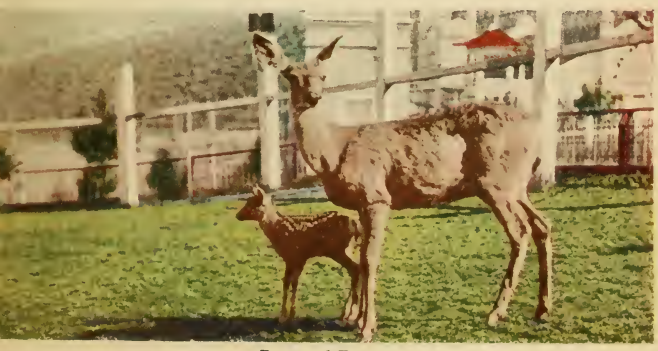


Feeding Time

Elk

mals and birds which belong to Montana's fastnesses and plains. These animals and feathered treasures are becoming to their bondage, and it is doubtful if any of the number would really care to leave were the opportunity offered. They are well housed, and at all seasons of the year are in excellent condition. They are beautiful specimens of their respective families. The management and the public are proud of them.

Alligators, kangaroos, gila monsters and monkeys cannot live in this altitude. Specimens of these have been given trials, and the test has proven too severe. But the bears —they like the place and the people that visit them. Paddy and Little Mack are as happy in their pit as they possibly could be in the jutting peaks of the grandest mounds



Deer and Fawn

Deer

of the Rockies, for they have all they want to eat, besides, they seem to like civilization.

Many of the finest specimens of wild cats that any trapper or hunter ever coveted are in captivity, and they, too, like their homes among their admired neighbors.

Big Tom is the pride of the lynx family. He struts in the corridor of his pen and casts sharp glances at the admiring throngs, while Jack and Jill, the coyotes from Northern Montana, play tag and amuse the children.

A drove of rabbits occupy one end of the spacious arena, and the little bunnies find it great fun to scamper around and under the deer—Daisy Deer and Dottie Deer. The Rocky Mountain goat has a family of little goats to attend to, and does not seem to

Perfectly Contented

Lunch Time

notice her admirers. Five full-blooded buffalo and one catalo, black and gray wolves, are also to be found among the collection and seem to be as contented in their quarters as they could be on the plains of the great state.

Fine Home for Animals and Birds

Annexed to the menagerie is the aviary, in which are exhibited bald-headed eagles, peacocks, swans that swim on the lake made specially for them, several eagles, owls, hawks, pigeons of many species, and other birds. Mike, the boss of the hot-house, is the parrot, and he makes his presence known by talking to everyone within hearing.

This collection of birds and animals has induced many wild birds to come down from

The Boss of the Herd

Some Climber

the mountains and take up their permanent abode near the menagerie. Robins have built their nests in the trees close at hand and reared their young in the atmosphere of civilization. Chipmunks and pine squirrels have acquired the habit of coming down and eating with the rabbits and guinea pigs, and are fond of their friends in captivity.

During the winter, mountain lions have visited the place, but they have managed to keep out of the way of the trapper who is looking for them. A baby mountain lion is one of the latest acquisitions to the collection, and the porcupines, badgers, ferrets, and some other new arrivals, all take to their new surroundings.

The animals and birds are all comfortably housed, and their homes are tidy and clean.

Taking a Bath

The Proudest in the Gardens

the entire front of the building being covered with a wire screen.

Because the warm seasons here are so short, and of the extreme cold in winter, it is not advisable to bring in animals from foreign climates. The native animal thrives in the improvised homes at the "Zoo," and they form many of the main attractions at the Gardens.

Over a Quarter of a Million in Improvements

The only artificial things at the Gardens are the improvements mechanical skill has placed there. Without these improvements, the Gardens would be inviting to the citizens of Butte, for a prettier spot is not to be found in this part of the country. But

Swans

Some Boss

capital, skill and persistency have combined to make this a veritable dream of beauty.

And so the people of Butte and the visitors in the city have near at hand a most desirable lounging place, where the comforts of the city and the beauties of the mountain wilds associate themselves in one expanse of delightful surroundings. It is a place sought by every one who lives in Butte or comes to the city for a few days or a season. To spend a day there is to take a dose of tonic pleasant to the senses, invigorating and a blood circulator unexcelled.

Summary of Attractions

Before leaving the Gardens, one must see the entire number of sights. There is the shooting-gallery, a source of much enjoy-

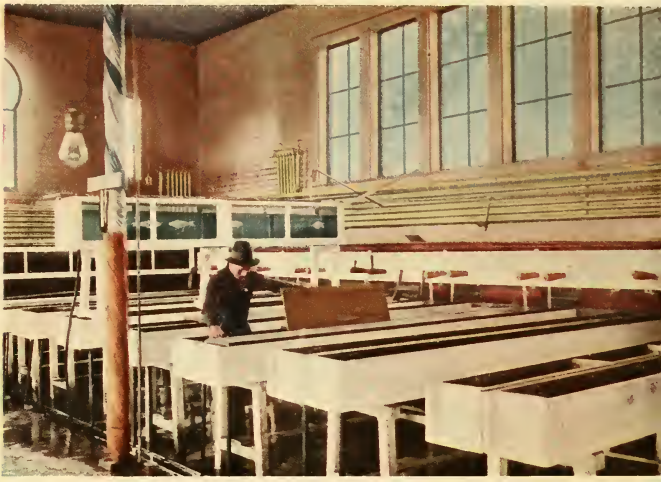
A Refreshing Swim

Section of the Herbarium Where Is Found Specimens of All Native Plants in Montana

ment, where the young man wins the candy from the young lady, because he can shoot straight; the moving pictures, the playgrounds, equipped with swings, see-saws, shoot-the-chutes, the lake where the children take delight in swimming in the cool waters; over a score of sanitary spring fountains supplying pure water are located in as many parts of the Gardens; the walks leading through bowers of beauty and freshness; the rocks; the flower-beds; the apple, plum and pear trees, besides the attractions in the pavilion, elsewhere enumerated.

For the children there is an almost unlimited chain of attractions, from the mossy swards —there they may lie in slumber or romp in hilarious glee—to the merry-go-round, roller-coaster or ferris wheel.

Grove with Herbarium in Distance



Section of Herbarium Showing Fish Hatcheries

The Herbarium and Fish Hatcheries

One of the most interesting features of the Gardens is the herbarium, where is found specimens of every flower and plant growing in the great state of Montana. This collection has been the source of much pleasure and education to those students who would familiarize themselves with the wonders in the plant kingdom of the state.

Next to the vast collection of plants is to be found the fish hatcheries, which alone affords a great study, interesting thousands upon thousands of visitors. Here are hatched millions of fish, which are used to fill the streams of our great state with a bountiful supply of the best fish to be found anywhere.

A Shady Brook Where You Catch 'Em With a Hook

Paul Clark Home for Orphans at Butte, Montana, Built and Maintained by W. A. Clark in Memory of His Deceased Son

A Giant Testimonial

Promises of a trip to the Gardens brings joy to the heart of every child. A memorial in bronze may one day be erected to Senator Clark, even during his life, in appreciation of the part he has played in the upbuilding of the great state, but no monument and no memorial will ever surpass in significance the giant testimonial to his public spirit which lies at the foot of the Continental Divide—the Columbia Gardens—growing each year larger, more beautiful and helpful.

A Group from the Eighty Children Taken Care of at the Paul Clark Home

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